



AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A knife section for mounting on a reciprocating sickle bar for a harvester and reciprocating during use across an edge of a stationary sickle guard, said knife section being flat and having a top surface plane and comprising a base, the knife section having a leading end spaced from the base, mounting holes in the base for securing the knife section to a support sickle bar, the knife section having a central dividing plane perpendicular to the top surface plane of the knife section and bisecting the top surface plane between the base and leading end, and the base having side edges parallel to the central dividing plane, the leading end being of substantially less lateral width perpendicularly to the center dividing plane than a width between the side edges of the base, a pair of cutting edges, one on each side of the knife section and each cutting edge defining a cutting line that continually moves away from the center plane of the knife section from a first end of such cutting line adjacent the leading end to a second end of the cutting line at a junction of the cutting line with a respective side edge on the respective side of the base of the knife section, and each cutting line being concave with respect to a straight line between the first and second ends of the respective cutting line to increase material cut with each reciprocation of the knife section when installed on a harvester cutting bar.

2. (Original) The knife section of claim 1, wherein said leading end has a surface transverse to the central plane of the knife section.

3. (Previously Presented) The knife section of claim 1, wherein each side edge is substantially between 40% and 50% of the

distance from a base end of the knife section to the leading end thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) The knife section of claim 1, wherein said cutting line is part of a circle and the line moves away from the center plane at a substantially greater rate for each increment of distance in direction from the leading end to the base along the cutting plane adjacent to the base than at the leading end.

5. (Previously Presented) The knife section of claim 1, wherein each cutting edge is serrated, with outer serration points lying along the respective cutting line.

6. (Currently Amended) A knife section for a reciprocating sickle, the knife section having a leading end and a base end with side edges, a pair of smoothly curved concave cutting edge lines extending from the leading end to a respective side edge without reducing the distance from the cutting edge line to a central plane perpendicular to the knife section, the cutting line positioned to curve laterally of the center plane a substantially less incremental distance for each increment of distance toward the base along the center plane, adjacent the leading end than adjacent the base.

7. (Original) The knife section of claim 6, wherein each cutting line lies along a smoothly sharpened edge of the knife section.

8. (Original) The knife section of claim 6, wherein each cutting edge line lies along points of cutting edge serrations on the knife section.

9. (Currently Amended) A double edge knife section for a reciprocating sickle, the knife section having a leading end and

a base end with opposite side edges, a knife section plane extending between the side edges, a pair of smoothly curved concave cutting edge lines extending from the leading end to a respective side edge of the base, the distance from each cutting edge line to a bisecting central plane perpendicular to the knife section plane expanding in a concave curve continually from adjacent the leading end to the respective base side edge and expanding at a greater rate at points on the cutting line as the cutting line is spaced farther from the leading end.

10. (Previously Presented) The double edge knife section of claim 9, wherein each cutting edge line lies along a smoothly sharpened edge of the double edge knife section.

11. (Previously Presented) The double edge knife section of claim 9, wherein each cutting edge line lies along points of cutting edge serrations on the double edge knife section.

12. (Previously Presented) The double edge knife section of claim 9, wherein the double edge knife section is symmetrical with respect to the bisecting central plane.

13. (Previously Presented) The double edge knife section of claim 9, wherein side edges of the knife section taper from the cutting edge line upwardly toward the central plane.